

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-04 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01
LAB-04 TRSE-00 EB-08 SP-02 NSC-05 IGA-02 OMB-01
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 HA-05 DODE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 IO-13 /098 W
-----118213 242326Z /20

R 241249Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2096
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 0309

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, ELAB, PA
SUBJ: U.S. REACTION TO ARREST OF CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS

REF: STATE 9394 (NOTAL)

1. IT NOW SEEMS CLEAR THAT NO ONE, OFFICIAL OR NON-OFFICIAL, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF INVESTIGATIONS POLICE CHIEF PASTOR CORONEL, GIVES ANY CREDENCE TO THE CHARGES OF SUBVERSION OF OPM INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE OF THE 19 DETAINED CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS AND RURAL ACTIVISTS. ONE OF THE 19, EMIGDIO COLMAN NUNEZ, WAS DETAINED IN MAY 1976 DURING THE OPM ROUNDUP. HE WAS RELEASED FIVE MONTHS LATER WITH NO CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST HIM. HE ALSO WAS NOT AT THE MEETING IN YPACARAI BUT WAS PICKED UP BY THE POLICE LATER AND TAKEN WITH THEM WHEN THEY RAIDED THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL STUDIES TO OBTAIN "SUBVERSIVE" DOCUMENTS.

2. REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT'S OTHER QUESTIONS:

(A) REASON FOR METALLURGICAL WORKERS INVOLVEMENT: THE METALLURGICAL WORKERS ARE FROM A COOPERATIVE IN ASUNCION IN WHICH THEY OWN AND RUN THEIR OWN SMALL METAL-WORKING PLANT. AS GOOD CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, THEY HAD AGREED TO TAKE ON SOME OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPENSES OF THE
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SEMINAR. THE POLICE CLAIM THAT THE MEETING WAS "SUBVERSIVE" BECAUSE IT HAD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH METALLURGY IS PATENTLY RIDICULOUS.

(B) STIMULUS FOR THE CPT LETTER. THE LETTER WAS STIMULATED BY AIFLD REP. GUS TORRES-LAZO. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MINISTER OF LABOR HAD SEEN THE LETTER AND HAD AGREED TO ITS BEING SENT BEFORE THE CPT ACTUALLY SENT IT.

(C) POSITION OF THE CHURCH IN THE ARRESTS: THE CHURCH, AS REPRESENTED BY THE BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF PARAGUAY (CEP), IS OPPOSED TO THE ARRESTS. CEP CHAIRMAN, BISHOP BENITEZ, AND OTHERS HAVE WORKED FOR THEIR RELEASE. HOWEVER, THERE IS A SCHISM IN THE SALESIAN ORDER IN PARAGUAY BETWEEN THOSE WHO FAVOR A TRADITIONAL ROLE FOR THE CHURCH AND THOSE WHO FAVOR AN ACTIVE ROLE FOR THE CHURCH IN MATTERS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM. IT WAS A "TRADITIONALIST" SALESIAN FATHER WHO REPORTED THE "SUSPICIOUS" MEETING TO THE POLICE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ASUNCIO0309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780131/aaaaazyj.tel
Line Count: 72
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 90f124e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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